

CONFIDENTIAL

C.I.G. NO.

21 June 1946

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

COVERAGE OF THE FOREIGN LANGUAGE PRESS  
IN THE UNITED STATES

Reference: C.I.G. Directive No. 4

Memorandum by the Director of Central Intelligence

1. Pursuant to the provisions of C.I.G. Directive No. 4, the Central Planning Staff, C.I.G., has conducted a survey of the coverage of the foreign language press in the United States and has submitted a report to the Director of Central Intelligence. The substance of that report is included in the Enclosure and Appendix "B" hereto.
2. After consideration of the report, the enclosed and appended papers have been prepared as a basis for action in this matter.
3. It is recommended that the Draft C.I.G. Directive (Appendix "A") be concurred in by the Intelligence Advisory Board for issue.
4. The Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation is a member of the Intelligence Advisory Board for consideration of this matter.
5. It is believed that formal action by the National Intelligence Authority is not required in the present instance.

MOYT S. VANDENBERG,  
Lieutenant General, USA  
DIRECTOR

CONFIDENTIAL

C.I.G. NO.

CONFIDENTIALENCLOSUREDRAFTCENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUPPROVISION FOR COVERAGE OF THE FOREIGN LANGUAGE PRESS  
IN THE UNITED STATESMemorandum by the Director of Central Intelligence

1. In accordance with C.I.G. Directive No. 4 the Central Planning Staff conducted a survey to determine if coverage of the foreign language press in the United States is desirable for intelligence purposes, what personnel are available for the work, and which agency or agencies should be responsible for such a project.
2. As a result of this survey the Director of Central Intelligence concludes that:
  - a. The Department of State has a primary need for a comprehensive coverage of the foreign language press in the United States.
  - b. The Department of State should develop this source to the extent determined by its needs and capabilities.
  - c. Competent personnel appear to be available.
  - d. This collection effort and the distribution of its results should be coordinated by the Director of Central Intelligence to ensure that it serves the interests of all agencies subject to N.I.A. coordination.
3. No action by N.I.A. appears to be necessary.
4. It is recommended that the Intelligence Advisory Board concur in the draft C.I.G. Directive (Appendix "A") for issue.

CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

ENCLOSURE

CONFIDENTIALAPPENDIX "A"DRAFTCENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUPC.I.G. DIRECTIVE NO.PROVISION FOR COVERAGE OF THE FOREIGN LANGUAGE PRESS  
IN THE UNITED STATESMemorandum by the Director of Central Intelligence  
with the Unanimous Concurrence of the  
Intelligence Advisory Board

Pursuant to paragraph 3.a. of the President's letter of 22 January 1946, which gives the Director of Central Intelligence authority to make full use of the staffs and facilities of the intelligence agencies of the Departments subject to N.I.A. coordination, the following policies and procedures, relating to the coverage of the foreign language press in the United States, are announced:

1. The Special Assistant to the Secretary of State for Research and Intelligence, to the extent of his capabilities, will develop the coverage of the foreign language press in the United States in order to meet his own and other departmental needs for foreign intelligence information from this source.
2. The intelligence information collection effort involved in the performance of the mission assigned in paragraph 1, above, and the distribution of the information collected will be coordinated by the Director of Central Intelligence to ensure that it serves the interests of the intelligence agencies subject to N.I.A. coordination.

CONFIDENTIALAPPENDIX "A"

CONFIDENTIALAPPENDIX "A"DISCUSSION

Note: The term "foreign language press" as used in this discussion refers to newspapers, magazines and pamphlets published in a foreign language in the United States. It is not to be confused with material printed in a foreign language but published abroad.

1. By a memorandum of 20 February 1946 (1.), Mr. Alfred McCormack, then Special Assistant to the Secretary of State in charge of Research and Intelligence, suggested that the Director of Central Intelligence take under advisement the matter of determining what coverage of the Foreign language press in the United States is desirable for intelligence information purposes and how the coverage should be obtained. This matter falls logically under the provisions of paragraph 4.b., N.I.A. Directive No. 2. Accordingly, C.I.G. Directive No. 4 directed a survey of the subject.

2. The matter was discussed with the State Department, MID, ONI, A-2 and F.B.I. In addition the matter was discussed with Mr. Harry T. Smith of the New York Times and Mr. Jacob Landau of the Overseas News Agency in New York City, both of whom follow the foreign language press in the United States.

3. Before the war the foreign language press was little exploited as a source of foreign intelligence information, although some use was made of it as a check on subversive activities of foreign groups in this country. The F.B.I., in the discharge of its mission concerned with internal security, collected information on foreign language newspapers as to editorship, financial backing, influence, etc.

4. During the war the foreign language press became of considerable interest to several government agencies. The F.B.I. intensified its coverage of this source for information on foreign groups and individuals.

CONFIDENTIAL

-4-

APPENDIX "A"

(1.) On file in C.I.G.

WID, ONI and A-2 searched magazines and newspapers published in foreign languages for any information of value. This coverage was undertaken to avoid overlooking any source which might yield any information of intelligence value from countries blacked out by enemy control. The State Department at that time made little use of information gleaned from foreign language newspapers and magazines.

5. The only agency to engage in a comprehensive coverage of the foreign language press was the Foreign Nationalities Branch, OSS. This coverage was performed in connection with research into foreign group origins in the United States, their political and economic development and their psychological reactions as the basis for reports on the composition and activities of such groups. In addition to their own reading and analysis of foreign press material, the Foreign Nationalities Branch paid the Overseas News Agency in New York \$1,000 per month to prepare periodic summaries of excerpts from newspapers and magazines serving various foreign groups in this country. This service provided only selection and translation of material and was in some measure guided by instructions from the Foreign Nationalities Branch.

1.3(a) (4)  
Activities and Methods

6. Organized coverage of the foreign language press for government agencies ceased with deactivation of the Foreign Nationalities Branch, OSS in the Fall of 1945.

7. The F.B.I. is satisfied with its present coverage as a check on subversive activities, and WID, ONI, and A-2 are of the opinion that exploitation of this source for military intelligence information would not warrant their contributing personnel, funds or facilities to achieve comprehensive coverage.

8. Information of the type obtainable from the foreign language press in the United States is required primarily by the State Department for the research divisions for intelligence projects, for the geographic

CONFIDENTIAL

-5-

APPENDIX "A"

CONFIDENTIAL

divisions to analyze the effect of foreign group pressures in the United States, and for the Office of International Information and Cultural Affairs to measure the effectiveness of this country's propaganda abroad. To provide for the State Department's current requirements, a service is needed similar to that formerly performed by the Foreign Nationalities Branch, OSS.

9. Although many of the personnel who were concerned with coverage of the foreign language press during the War have left the city, it is believed that there are still available a small number of persons with requisite ability and experience to staff a unit for the purpose. The Overseas News Agency is still in existence and may be able to resume the service formerly provided the Foreign Nationalities Branch, OSS.

CONFIDENTIAL

-6-

APPENDIX "A"

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

Disposition Form

26 June 1946

FROM: Chief, Central Planning Staff

TO: Director of Central Intelligence

REFERENCE: C.I.G. Directive #4

ENCLOSURES: Memorandum by DCI: with: Enclosure;  
Appendix "A";  
Appendix "B".

FOR ACTION.

COVERAGE OF THE FOREIGN LANGUAGE PRESS IN THE UNITED STATES

1. Papers comprising recommended C.I.G. action in subject matter are forwarded herewith.
2. Recommend that these papers be approved and issued.
3. N.I.A. action in this matter is not believed to be necessary.

(C. E. OLSEN,)  
Captain, U.S.N.  
Acting Chief, Central Planning Staff

34(e) - 1949 Act